

What Participants are Saying:

"It allows me to do something for my son, even though I'm not there."

"It keeps me in touch with my daughter and she get to hear my voice any time she want to play the tape."

"My youngest child play's the tape over and over again. The last book was about learning you're A.B.C's."

"Although communication with my children is limited, this program has given me a feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment just knowing that I, as a loving Father, have attempted to bridge the distance."

"I don't have any other opportunity to see or talk to my son. The read-to-me Program helps me reach out to my son, so he gets to know how I am."

"His mother told me he would ask her to play tape while he looked at books three times a day. Make me wish I was home to spend more time with family."

"When I was at home I use to read to my sons every night. Because you've given me the chance to read to them again I know the peace and joy it brings to their hearts and mine also."



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A COOPERATIVE
EFFORT OF THE:

INDIANA STATE
LIBRARY

&

INDIANA DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTION

www.IN.gov/library

About the Program

The Read-to-Me literacy program gives incarcerated parents the opportunity to share the joys of reading with their children. Through this program, offenders discover the personal value and personal connections for both the child and themselves in developing literacy skills. The program allows the incarcerated parent, regardless of his or her educational level, to become the child's first teacher. The program has four primary objectives:

- To break the cycle of incarceration and low literacy;
- To educate parents to become their child's first teacher;
- To instruct parents in the use of children's books to teach the children in their lives; and
- To make personal connections with the children during the period of incarceration.

How it works

The Indiana State Library Development Office provides children's books, cassette tapes, and postage for mailing the tapes and books. Grant funds, publisher donations, and local donations of new and gently used books enable the program to continue.

Institutional librarians may request books for children up to age 10 for the offenders to select. Offenders work with the facility librarians, teachers, and other facility employees or volunteers to record the books they select. Before recording, the offender must complete a family history survey that addresses his or her reading experiences. The cassette tapes, books and surveys are returned to the Library Development Office. A letter acknowledging the collaboration between the State Library and the correctional facility

is then sent to the child.

After the child receives the materials, he or she may contact the parent directly with feedback via phone, letter or visit. Upon correspondence with the child, the offender completes a follow-up survey and returns it to the Indiana State Library Development Office.

Read-to-Me Program Partners

Correctional Industrial Facility
Edinburgh Correctional Facility
Indiana Women's Prison
Indiana State Prison
Pendleton Correctional Facility
Plainfield Correctional Facility
Rockville Correctional Facility
Wabash Valley Correctional Facility